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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (08/12): New Fatah Central
Committee members bring new blood to the movement

Main Stories:

The local press runs prominent coverage of unofficial results of the Fatah Central Committee (FCC) elections. The coverage notes that "new blood" has been pumped into Fatah after 14 new members were elected to the FCC; Al-Hayat Al-Jadida leads with photos of the 14 new members. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas noted that the official results of the FCC elections will be announced by the elections supervisory committee.

Al-Quds runs separate front page news citing DPA on senior Fatah leader Nabil Shaath noting after the elections that the newly elected FCC will have to pursue three major tasks: national reconciliation, ending the internal Palestinian division, and the establishment of the Palestinian State.

Al-Quds also runs front page news citing Israeli government sources who doubt the peace plan that is reportedly being prepared by the US to end the Arab-Israeli conflict will succeed in light of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's position on freezing settlement construction. The article notes that the Israeli government is challenging Washington and has firmly adopted the positions of the Israeli right wing.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida runs front page news citing Wafa News Agency on State Department Spokesperson Robert Wood reiterating the US call for the Israelis and Palestinians to commit to their Roadmap obligations. -----

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Dr. Asad Abdel Rahman opines in Al-Quds independent daily under the title, "The Obama-Netanyahu conflict" (08/12): "Obama's strategy focuses on a comprehensive peace not only between the Palestinians and Israelis but with the Arab and Muslim countries as well ... However, the next few months will determine if he will stick to his positions in light of the anticipated Israeli rejection of his proposals, or if he will cease the pressure and leave Netanyahu to fulfill the Jewish dream."

2) Hamada Fara'na opines in Al-Ayyam independent daily under the headline "Fatah conference... Abbas conference" (08/12): "Mahmoud Abbas proved to be the key player in the proceedings of the Fatah h conference ... It was obvious in his speech that he is confident, determined, and balanced. If the conference is a success, then the success must be named after Abbas, the leader!"

WALLES